

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 00856 212306Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 ARA-10 SCA-01 /029 W

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P 212141Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2530

UNCLAS MEXICO 0856

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: W/W: BEVERLY HEPBURN

REF: STATE 012937,

1. EMBASSY COMMUNICATED WITH HOTEL ESTANCIA, JALAPA, VERACRUZ, AND WAS INFORMED THAT MS. HEPBURN WAS NOT AND HAD NOT BEEN REGISTERED THERE. EMBASSY ALSO COMMUNICATED WITH THREE OTHER HOTELS AT JALAPA WITH NO SUCCESS IN LOCATING HER.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION: MS. HEPBURN CHECKED INTO HOTEL IN MEXICO CITY JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS FOR ONE NIGHT, INTENDING TO CONTINUE TRIP NEXT DAY. SHE FELL ILL OWING, ACCORDING TO HER, TO LACK OF HEAT IN HOTEL. EMBASSY PROVIDED HER WITH CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE OVER SEVERAL DAYS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM HOSPITAL BY OFFICIAL VEHICLE UPON HER INSISTANCE THAT SHE WAS NOT WELL ENOUGH TO TRAVEL BY TAXI. LATER HOTEL NEEDED ROOM FOR ANOTHER PERSON WITH LONG STANDING RESERVATIONS, OFFERING TO ARRANGE ROOM AT ANOTHER HOTEL FOR MS. HEPBURN AND PROVIDE HER WITH TRANSPORTATION TO IT. WHILE SHE REPEATEDLY SAID HOW MUCH SHE DISLIKED THE HOTEL, SHE DECLINED TO MOVE AND INSISTED THAT EMBASSY CONVINCE ORIGINAL HOTEL TO LET HER STAY UNTIL SHE WAS WELL ENOUGH TO CONTINUE HER JOURNEY, WE UNDERSTOOD TO CUERNAVACA. NOT SURPRISINGLY, EMBASSY WAS NOT ABLE TO CONVINCE HOTEL, NOR WERE WE ABLE TO CONVINCE MS. HEPBUR OF THAT. SHE WAS FINALLY MOVED OUT DURING A SECOND VISIT TO HOSPITAL, AGAIN BY OFFICIAL VEHICLE.

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BY THIS TIME, HER DOCTOR HAD ALREADY INFORMED US THAT

THERE WAS NO REASON THAT SHE COULD NOT TRAVEL BY TAXI,
AND HER CONDITION DID NOT PRECLUDE HER STOPPING OFF AT
EMBASSY FOR LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH CONOFF AND CONGEN,
COMPLAINING ABOUT HER TREATMENT BY HOTEL AND LACK OF
ASSISTANCE BY EMBASSY. AT THAT TIME SHE SHOWED A COPY
OF A LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN DELLUMS ADDRESSED TO
SECRETARY KISSINGER ADVISING THAT MS. HEPBURN HAD HAD
A NUMBER OF UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCES WITH FOREIGN SERVICE
POSTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASKING THE SECRETARY THAT
SHE NOT BE HARRASSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT DURING
HER STAY IN MEXICO.
THOMPSON

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